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Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Maintenance of international security – prevention of the violent disintegration of States

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

Human rights questions

Letter dated 12 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw to your attention the joint statement made by the Heads of State and Government of Bulgaria, Romania and Greece at their meeting in Delphi, Greece, on 4 October 1998 (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33, 64, 93 (b) and 110, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Christos **Zacharakis**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Joint statement made by the Heads of State and Government of Bulgaria, Romania and Greece at their meeting in Delphi, Greece, on 4 October 1998

The President of Bulgaria, Petar Stoyanov, the President of Romania, Emil Constantinescu, and the Prime Minister of Greece, Costas Simitis, accompanied by their Foreign Ministers, held their first trilateral summit meeting in Delphi, Greece, on 3 and 4 October 1998.

The three leaders, whose countries share a common European destiny, reaffirmed their commitment to principles of international law on peace, security and good-neighbourly relations, respect for the sovereignty, integrity and inviolability of external borders, as well as the recourse to the International Court of Justice to settle territorial differences, which are enunciated in the European Union Presidency's conclusions of the Luxembourg Council of December 1997 and in "Agenda 2000".

The Presidents of Bulgaria and Romania and the Prime Minister of Greece noted with satisfaction that their summit meeting highlighted the increasing cooperation among their three countries, a process started at Ioánnina, Greece, in 1995 with the meeting of their countries' Foreign Ministers. Since then, three further meetings of Foreign Ministers successfully took place. It was also noted with satisfaction that in 1998 the first meetings were held, in Thessaloniki, Greece, of the Ministers of Transport, Environment and Public Works and also of the Ministers of the Interior/Public Order of Bulgaria, Romania and Greece. The scope and context of this trilateral cooperation have thus greatly increased.

It was stressed that this cooperation has contributed importantly to the promotion of security, stability and cooperation in Europe as a whole, within the perspective of growing integration of the continent. Therefore, it was underlined that the close cooperation of all three countries, on a bilateral, trilateral and multilateral basis, should continue in all fields, notably in infrastructure networks, transport and energy, in promoting economic and trade relations in combating organized crime, terrorism, the illegal trafficking of drugs, weapons and radioactive and nuclear materials, economic crime, money-laundering and all other forms of non-conventional threats to security.

In this regard, they stressed the utmost importance of the implementation of pan European corridors IV, VII, VIII, IX, X and the trans-European priority project No. 7 – Via Egnatia and PATHE axis – which cross the three countries.

Despite ongoing conflict in the region and financial crisis in a larger context, the three leaders emphasized that their countries offered a stable political and economic environment for attracting international investment.

The three leaders noted with satisfaction the recent signing in Sofia, on 8 September 1998, of a protocol for the enhanced trilateral cooperation on combating crime and especially transborder crime. Particular emphasis was placed on the need for information-sharing and other joint coordinated activities between the customs authorities of the three countries, on a systematic basis, in order to ensure effective customs control. They further agreed that their Ministers of the Interior/Public Order and Justice should convene on a regular basis in joint meetings. They expressed support for the establishment in Bucharest of the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative Regional Centre for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption and the initiative of Bulgaria to host the Regional Coordinating Centre for Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking.

They welcomed the opening of the enlargement process of the European Union, in which Bulgaria and Romania participate as candidate countries. They regard the cooperation among their three countries as an additional means for Bulgaria and Romania to prepare for accession to the Union. They also stressed the importance of the continued "open-door" policy of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and expressed their hope that concrete steps in that direction would be taken in the upcoming Washington summit, taking into account the need to enhance the alliance's decisive role in consolidating peace and stability in south-eastern Europe and on the continent as a whole. They also welcomed the recent signing of the agreement for the establishment of the Multinational Peace Force – South-Eastern Europe.

The Presidents of Bulgaria and Romania and the Prime Minister of Greece exchanged views on a wide range of regional and international issues.

Bulgaria, Romania and Greece, immediate neighbours of Yugoslavia, are deeply concerned that the escalation of the conflict in Kosovo has reached a crucial point; further negative developments could have serious consequences for the three countries and the region as a whole. The three leaders make an urgent and dramatic appeal to all sides involved, and in particular the Yugoslav authorities, to work for a negotiated settlement of the conflict in Kosovo and to fully implement Security Council resolution 1199 (1998), namely, a ceasefire should be put immediately into effect, and parties should come to the negotiating table without preconditions, aiming at achieving a peaceful solution for a large degree of autonomy for Kosovo within the internationally recognized borders of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and respecting the rights and freedoms of all the inhabitants of Kosovo, so that another course of action can be avoided.

The three leaders expressed their support for the restoration of an effective political dialogue in Albania within the framework of democratic institutions. They called upon the Government and all political parties in Albania to take appropriate steps for building a state of law in Albania and for the effective functioning of its institutions. They welcomed and fully supported the relevant initiatives of the international community.

The Presidents of Bulgaria and Romania and the Prime Minister of Greece welcomed the increasing success of the initiatives in south-eastern Europe fostering regional dialogue and cooperation in all fields, both at the State level and among their respective civil societies, such as the Cooperation of South-Eastern European Countries, the Royaumont process on stability and good-neighbourliness in south-eastern Europe, the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation. Following the historic first meeting of Heads of State and Government of countries of south-eastern Europe in Crete (3 and 4 November 1997) and the Istanbul meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs (8 and 9 June 1998), they examined ways and possibilities of ensuring further progress during the Antalya Summit (12 and 13 October 1998). They noted that those initiatives served to foster the integration of countries of the region into the European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

The Presidents of Bulgaria and Romania and the Prime Minister of Greece, convinced that the comprehensive political dialogue they have established constitutes an effective platform to exchange views on matters of common interest, agreed to continue their summit meetings on a regular basis and to further promote the cooperation of their three countries, at the ministerial level and at the level of experts in all fields.

The next summit will take place in Bulgaria.